From: chesna chaya
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Re: Cambridge:You are a successful and admirable city
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 8:44:13 PM

Councilwoman Simmons

Many thanks for the time spent and thoughtfulness expressed in your letter today.
I am relieved that the Council has not acted on this concept without a full clarification of its contents and thrust.

Our hope is that less passion and more intelligence are used in considering such a change.

Be well and stay strong. Thank you again

Sincerely Carol Fineblum Needham

On Thu, Apr 19, 2018 at 8:36 PM, Simmons, Denise <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Dear Dr. Fineblum,
>
> Thank you for your thoughtful email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that **this will only appear on the City Council's agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it.** We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and publicly posted online around 5:30 pm on the Thursday before a Monday meeting (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.
>
> There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for drafting such a resolution, rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, nor even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. None of these scenarios are accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.
>
> I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 30 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to

best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: chesna chaya
Sent: 4/19/18, 7:37 PM
To: City Council, PIO, City Manager
Subject: Cambridge:You are a successful and admirable city

Dear Cambridge Council:

My husband, a 94th Infantry Division rifleman who liberated France (was made a chevalier de Frances by the French consul), was MIA/POW and had a story for you. When he entered Stalag 11B in 1945 after being marched and boxcared to the camp found that he had to trade American Red Cross package cigarettes for bread in order to save his famished and diseased buddies. When he entered the British(there were 3- Russian, American and British) compound to search for bartered bread, he heard Hebrew spoken and as he turned, he saw three soldiers whose shirts had the word PALESTINE sewn on them. He stopped to talk to them in his Biblical Hebrew and learned that they were Jews from PALESTINE-SAMARIA- now known as the West Bank. They had volunteered with the British to defeat Hitler in Tabruk in 1941 and were captured by the Germans. Marched to Stalag 11B in northern German near Hannover, they had been there nearly 4 years missing their homes in Palestine. Their families are the ancient Jews of Samaria and Judea. They have lived there for centuries producing the renown grapes for world class wine and sewing the clothes available on the international market. Today their families continue to live on only 3% of that tract of land - 3% now disputed by Arab newcomers. So when you raise objection to their existence, know that you deny indigent people 3% of the West Bank, where they have been consistently productive of goods and medications for the whole world.

We can only hope that you reconsider the injustice of your proposed endorsement of BDS. At age 91, I would be honored to visit with you and provide further reasoning to abandon your BDS vote.

Dr Carol Fineblum 781 444 4420